

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A device for isolating ~~objects (11)~~ cigarettes from a quantity of ~~articles (11)~~ cigarettes located in a ~~container (13)~~ shaft, comprising a pivotal flap (15) at the outlet of the ~~container (13)~~ shaft for releasing one ~~article (11)~~ cigarette that is to be isolated, and comprising a retaining element (16) for holding back the remaining ~~articles~~ cigarettes in the ~~container (13)~~ shaft which is disposed above the flap (15) in the direction of movement of the ~~articles (13)~~ cigarettes ~~characterized in that~~ whereby the retaining element (16) is a resilient thrust piece.
wherein
 - the flap and the retaining element are parts of a pivotal element,
 - during a rotary movement of the pivotal element, the flap releases one cigarette, and the retaining element enters the outlet track of the shaft for the purposes of holding back further cigarettes, and
 - following reverse rotation of the pivotal element, the flap is located transversely in the shaft and holds back the cigarettes, whilst the retaining element is located outside the shaft.
2. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]] The device in accordance with of~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that the flap (15) and the retaining element (16) are parts of a pivotal element (14) wherein the resilient thrust piece clamps the succeeding cigarette in the outlet track.~~
3. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]] The device in accordance with of~~ claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, ~~characterized in that, during a rotary movement of the pivotal element (14), the flap (15) releases one article (11) and the retaining element (14) enters the outlet track for the purposes of holding back further articles wherein a container is in the form of a cassette in which the cigarettes are arranged one above the other in a shaft.~~
4. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]] The device in accordance with any of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the resilient thrust piece clamps the succeeding article in the outlet track of claim 1, wherein the cigarettes that are to be isolated are test specimens for subsequent measuring processes.~~

Preliminary Amendment
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5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)